

New Assistant Provincial Grand Master



Geoffrey was born in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (he only states this as his wife likes to tell people he comes from "Up North"). He graduated with a Masters Degree in Business Administration specialising in the Behavioural Sciences from the Central London Business School, now a part of the University of Westminster. From there, he made his way to Brighton and successfully ran a variety of his own businesses for over 40 years.

He has been married to Karen for 37 years and is blessed with two wonderful boys, Oliver, 32, who works in worldwide medical recruitment and Daniel, 29, who is a Classics Master at Uppingham School, Rutland.

Throughout this time Geoffrey was a producer/presenter of radio programmes on BBC Radio Brighton and BBC Radio Sussex and the odd stint on Radio 4. He describes his radio career as "the best hobby in the world" until, that is, he discovered Freemasonry!

Geoffrey was initiated into South Down Lodge No1797 in 1995 and became its Master in 2007 and then its Secretary for 5 years before receiving his first (active) Provincial Appointment in 2013 as Provincial Grand Mentor which he held for 5 years. He is a founder member of Sussex Scriveners Lodge and is an active member of Sussex Masters' Lodge (going into the Chair in June 2020). Geoffrey was appointed to Grand Rank as PAGDC in 2018. In the Royal Arch, Geoffrey was exalted in 1998 into South Down Chapter and held the office of PS for 6 years prior to reaching the "chair" in 2008 and then served as Scribe E for 5 years after that.

In addition he joined Sussex First Principals Chapter and has held many offices throughout his membership. He was a "Provincial Escort" for 18 months after gaining his (again active) RA Provincial Appointment as Asst Prov Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2013. In addition to his Provincial masonry, in 2016, Geoffrey was asked to join the UGLE Universities Scheme Committee in Great Queen Street, first as an Assistant and then as the SE England and Home Counties Scheme Coordinator, an ongoing role which gives him much enjoyment and which encompasses all the Masonic Provinces throughout the South of England and beyond.

Geoffrey enjoys a full and active life. He and Karen moved to the Sussex countryside in 2017, retired from business and now reside in East Hoathly. He was elected as a District Councillor in the May 2019 elections and sits on the Licensing and the Planning Committees for Wealden District Council, again a role he finds both interesting and rewarding. Luckily both committees sit in the mornings so as not to interfere with his Masonic duties.

This Christmas he took the role of Hook in the Masonic production of Peter Pan and is still quite amazed that he and the rest of the cast actually seemed to "pull it off". The amount raised toward our Queens Road renovation fund is though, clearly, a great success and makes this fine effort very much worthwhile! Regarding his appointment as APGM, Geoffrey says, "I am proud and honoured to have been awarded this opportunity. I hope to carry out my duties with all the dedication, solemnity and assiduity worthy of that office"

Geoffrey Draper
South Down Lodge 1797

